



## ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### Permanent International Secretariat

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### REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME

Istanbul, 29-30 November 2011

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, with the Participation of the Liaison Officers on Combating Crime, was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 29-30 November 2011.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Vilhelmina LUCINESCU, Commissioner, General Directorate of European Affairs and International Relations, Permanent Representative of the Ministry of Administration and Interior of Romania in the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
  - Republic of Armenia
  - Republic of Azerbaijan
  - Republic of Bulgaria
  - Hellenic Republic
  - Romania
  - Russian Federation
  - Republic of Turkey
  - Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Czech Republic and the Republic of Poland participated in the Meeting as BSEC Observers.
5. The representatives of the United Nations Office for Drug and Crime (UNODC), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Secretariat of Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe (GRECO) attended the Meeting as Guests.

The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

6. Ambassador A. Sumru NOYAN, First Deputy Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS, opened the Meeting with a welcoming speech and stressed the importance of the efforts aimed at combating organized crime.

7. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE JOINT DECLARATIONS OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR/PUBLIC ORDER OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

8. Romania in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, presented an evaluation report on the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions, and Recommendations of the Council and the follow-up of the Declarations and Joint Statements of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the BSEC Member States. The Report is attached as **Annex III**.

9. BSEC PERMIS informed the Working Group that the Republic of Serbia deposited on 14 November 2011 with BSEC PERMIS the instruments of ratification of the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, and of the two Additional Protocols to it. All three agreements will enter into force with the respect of the Republic of Serbia on 14 December 2011.

10. Therefore, the Working Group noted with satisfaction that all BSEC Member States had ratified the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, and the Additional Protocol to it, which established the Network of the Liaison Officers on Combating Crime.

11. The participants also invited the Member State which had not ratified yet the Additional Protocol on Combating Terrorism to do so as soon as possible.

12. The Working Group took note that so far eight Member States had appointed their representatives to it and invited those countries which had not done so yet to forward information on their representatives to the Working Group as soon as possible.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS, FOR JULY 2011 – JUNE 2013**

13. The Working Group discussed, amended and adopted the Plan of Action of the Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, elaborated by the Country-Coordinator for 2011-2013. The Plan of Action, as adopted, is attached as **Annex IV**.

**FINALIZATION OF THE DRAFT ANNUAL REVIEW WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE TRENDS OF TRANS-NATIONAL CRIME IN THE BSEC REGION FOR 2009 AND DISCUSSION ON A DRAFT ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2010**

14. The participants discussed the draft Report regarding the Annual Review of the trans-national crime trends in the BSEC region for 2009, and agreed that the draft document was not accomplished.

15. Taking into consideration the aforesaid, the Working Group decided to convene a special meeting in the first semester of 2012 with the agenda focused on preparation procedure of an Annual Review for 2011. It was also noted that participation of experts in statistics should be provided with the aim to advance consideration of the issue.

16. Therefore, the Member States were invited by the Working Group to forward their inputs to the draft Annual Review for 2011 by the end of April 2012.

17. Moreover, the Member States were requested to take into account the final conclusions of Romania set forth in Chapter VII of the Draft Annual Review for 2009.

**EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ANTICORRUPTION LEGISLATION IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

18. The Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation informed the Working Group on the latest developments in anticorruption legislation in their countries.

**DISCUSSION ON ELABORATION OF A BSEC ACTION PLAN ON REGIONAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND COMBAT CORRUPTION**

19. Romania in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator introduced the issue and presented the Questionnaire for collecting information for the purpose of drafting a BSEC Regional Action Plan for preventing and combating corruption in the Black Sea Region.

20. The Member States were requested to forward their replies to the Questionnaire by 15 February 2012.

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE BSEC REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE BLACK SEA REGION**

21. The Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria and the Russian Federation delivered information regarding implementation of the BSEC Regional Action Plan in their countries. The presentation of the Republic of Armenia is attached as **Annex V**.

22. The Working Group reiterated its request to UNODC to provide further assistance to the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons in the Black Sea Region through a new project.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL ON COMBATING TERRORISM TO THE AGREEMENT AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE BSEC PARTICIPATING STATES ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS**

23. The Working Group considered importance of enhancement of cooperation with international organizations on combating terrorism.

24. Within the framework of the possible joint workshop with the OSCE ATU as discussed at the previous meeting of the Group, the Republic of Azerbaijan proposed the possible topics for the joint workshop (BSEC/INFO.2011.0367 dated 19 May 2011).

25. The Republic of Armenia presented its position on the proposed topics (BSEC/INFO.2011.0403 dated 27 May 2011).

26. It was agreed to defer the issue to the next meeting of the Working Group and thereafter the Member States were requested to forward their proposals on topics for possible joint workshop with OSCE ATU.

**ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORK OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME**

27. The Working Group repeatedly decided to convene a separate meeting of the Liaison Officers on Combating Crime for consideration of ways to enhance operation of their network.

28. Those Member States which had not nominated their Liaison Officers were requested to do so as soon as possible.

**ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME AND CORRUPTION**

29. The representative of UNODC briefed the participants on the activities of the Organization with regard to combating terrorism and trafficking, notably human trafficking, container control and anti-corruption issues. The information provided is attached as **Annex VI**.

30. The representative of the Secretariat of the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe (GRECO) informed the participants on the activities of the Group and its monitoring mechanism operation.

31. The Working Group commended the information provided by the representatives of both organizations and expressed its intention to invite them for sharing their expertise in elaborating a draft BSEC Regional Action Plan on preventing and combating corruption.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

32. No issues were raised under this agenda item.

**DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

33. The date and venue of the next meeting will be communicated to the Member States in due course by BSEC PERMIS.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

34. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials and the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in Moscow on 14-16 December 2011.

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